

From: pammie@clds.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/21/02 7:15pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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**707 Marlborough Court
Hinesville, GA 31313-5540**

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

In my humble opinion, a lawsuit of this magnitude gives the appearance of punishing a company for being successful. Microsoft is a leader that has set the standard for the industry. Is it fair to punish them for their competitors' inability to keep up? If these competitors were able to make better products, don't you think they would? This long, drawn-out, three-year lawsuit has accomplished nothing except damage the economy and the industry by limiting Microsoft's ability to focus all their time and effort in creating new and better products. This case has also done much to damage the confidence of the average American in the government and its policies. It seems that the message being sent to the public is that is you work hard and produce a great product; the government will step in and punish you for being successful.

Rather than continue to defend themselves, Microsoft just wants to end the lawsuit, even at the cost of big concessions. So much so, they have agreed to restrictions that extend to items that were not even at issue in the lawsuit. They have agreed to allow computer makers to remove (or remove easy access to) Windows features such as Internet Explorer and Windows Media Player, and allow easier installation of and access to non-Microsoft alternatives. In addition, Microsoft has made it easier for competitors by making its intellectual properties and protocols more readily available. It has become so simple for consumers to use other browsers and media players that it makes me pause and wonder if the consumers are the one complaining, or is it the other computer companies? Is it simply a matter of politics? Have politics sold out to computer companies who don't stand a chance in the marketplace because of their lack of vision and inability to "build a better mouse trap"? Does it all boil down to which members of the government can be bought? It's unreasonable to reject the settlement to pursue the case further for even more concessions, when Microsoft's concessions are quite tough as it is.

MTC-0014395_0002

I appreciate this avenue of public expression and hope that my views on this matter will aid in the prompt resolution of this matter. It would be good to know if your office truly values the input of the public.

Sincerely,

Pam Mitchum RPh

MTC-0014395_0003